

Grade Your Dog Food

Everyone wants to make sure their dogs are getting healthy, safe foods. We'd love to give you the perfect solution, but there's a whole lot that goes into food analysis, and many wonderful resources on the internet.

We like to keep it simple and this little food rating system is a nice little formula. Fair warning for what it's worth -- this free advice from the internet.

In the end, you have to go with what works best for you and your dogs. In addition to the little quiz below, you have to give points to convenience and affordability. Let your dog chime in as well -- they're going to have their own opinions! Mmmmmmm!!! Bahrooooo!!!

How to grade your dog's kibble (dry food): Start with a grade of 100, then:

- For every listing of **"by-product"**, subtract 10 points
- For every **non-specific animal source** ("meat" or "poultry", meat, meal or fat) reference, subtract 10 points
- If the food contains **BHA, BHT, or ethoxyquin**, subtract 10 points
- For every grain "mill run" or **non-specific grain source**, subtract 5 points
- If the same grain ingredient is used 2 or more times in the first five ingredients (i.e. "ground brown rice", "brewers rice", "rice flour" are all the same grain), subtract 5 points
- If the protein sources are not meat meal and there are less than 2 meats in the top 3 ingredients, subtract 3 points
- If it contains any **artificial colorants**, subtract 3 points
- If it contains ground **corn** or whole grain corn, subtract 3 points
- If corn is listed in the top 5 ingredients, subtract 2 more points
- If the food contains any **animal fat** other than fish oil, subtract 2 points
- If lamb is the only animal protein source (unless your dog is allergic to other protein sources), subtract 2 points
- If it contains **soy** or **soybeans**, subtract 2 points
- If it contains wheat (unless you know that your dog is not allergic to wheat), subtract 2 points
- If it contains beef (unless you know that your dog is not allergic to beef), subtract 1 point
- If it contains **salt** (sodium chloride), subtract 1 point

Extra Credit:

- If any of the meat sources are **organic**, add 5 points
- If the food is **endorsed** by any major breed group or nutritionist, add 5 points
- If the food is **baked** not extruded, add 5 points
- If the food contains **probiotics**, add 3 points
- If the food contains **fruit**, add 3 points
- If the food contains **vegetables** (NOT corn or other grains), add 3 points
- If the animal sources are **hormone-free** and **antibiotic-free**, add 2 points
- If the food contains **barley**, add 2 points
- If the food contains **flax seed oil** (not just the seeds), add 2 points
- If the food contains **oats** or **oatmeal**, add 1 point
- If the food contains **sunflower oil**, add 1 point
- For every different specific animal protein source (other than the first one; count "chicken" and "chicken meal" as only one protein source, but "chicken" and "" as 2 different sources), add 1 point
- If it contains **glucosamine** and **chondroitin**, add 1 point
- If the vegetables have been tested for pesticides and are **pesticide-free**, add 1 point

Scoring:

- 94-100+ = A
- 86-93 = B
- 78-85 = C
- 70-77 = D
- 69 and below = F

Here are some foods that have already been scored:

Brand/Formula	Score	Grade
Alpo Prime Cuts	81	C
American Natural Premium -- WIZARD OF PAWZ TOP PICK IN FOOD OF PREFERENCE	107	A+
Artemis Large/Medium Breed Puppy	114	A+
Authority Harvest Baked	116	A+
Authority Harvest Baked Less Active	93	B
Beowulf Back to Basics	101	A+
Bil-Jac Select	68	F
Blackwood 3000 Lamb and Rice	83	C
Blue Buffalo Chicken and Rice	106	A+
Burns Chicken and Brown Rice	107	A+
Canidae	112	A+
Chicken Soup Senior	115	A+
Diamond Lamb Meal & Rice	92	B
Diamond Large Breed 60+ Formula	99	A
Diamond Maintenance	64	F
Diamond Performance	85	C
Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance Venison and Brown Rice	106	A+
Dick Van Patten's Duck and Potato	106	A+
EaglePack Holistic	102	A+
Eukanuba Adult	81	C
Eukanuba Puppy	79	C
Flint River Senior	101	A+
Foundations	106	A+

Hund-n-Flocken Adult Dog (lamb) by Solid Gold	93	B
Iams Lamb Meal & Rice Formula Premium	73	D
Innova Dog	114	A+
Innova Evo	114	A+
Innova Large Breed Puppy	122	A+
Kirkland Signature Chicken, Rice, and Vegetables	110	A+
Member'Mark Chicken and Rice	84	C
Merrick Wilderness Blend	127	A+
Nature's Recipe	100	A
Nature's Recipe Healthy Skin Venison and Rice	116	A+
Nature's Variety Raw Instinct	122	A+
Nutra Nuggets Super Premium Lamb Meal and Rice	81	C
Nutrience Junior Medium Breed Puppy	101	A+
Nutrisource Lamb and Rice	87	B
Nutro Max Adult	93	B
Nutro Natural Choice Lamb and Rice	98	A
Nutro Natural Choice Large Breed Lamb and Rice Puppy	98	A
Nutro Natural Choice Large Breed Puppy	87	B
Nutro Natural Choice Oatmeal	101	A+
Nutro Natural Choice Puppy Wheat Free	86	B
Nutro Natural Choice Senior	95	A
Nutro Ultra Adult	104	A+
Pet Gold Adult with Lamb & Rice	23	F
Premium Edge Chicken, Rice and Vegetables Adult Dry	109	A+
Pro Nature Puppy	80	C
Pro Plan Sensitive Stomach	94	A

ProPlan Natural Turkey & Barley	103	A+
Purina Beneful	17	F
Purina Come-n-Get It	16	F
Purina Dog	62	F
Purina One Large Breed Puppy	62	F
Royal Canin Boxer	103	A+
Royal Canin Bulldog	100	A+
Royal Canin Natural Blend Adult	106	A+
Science Diet Advanced Protein Senior 7+	63	F
Science Diet for Large Breed Puppies	69	F
Sensible Choice Chicken and Rice	97	A
Solid Gold	99	A
Summit	99	A
Timberwolf Organics Wild & Natural Dry	120	A+
Wellness Super5 Mix Chicken	110	A+
Wolfking Adult Dog (bison) by Solid Gold	97	A

Internet Information Source:
<http://www.playdogexcellent.com/DogFood.htm>